USDA-SCS
Section II-E
Area 24

BLACKLAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION
PE 31-44

Land Resource Area Rio Grande Plain

Location _____

Date 1/1/72

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site is nearly level upland. Slopes are mainly less than one percent but may range up to 8 percent bordering natural drains. Drains and swales are widely spaced resulting in slow surface drainage.

2. SOILS:
   a. Soils of this site are characterized by slowly permeable, highly fertile clays and clay loams. These soils can hold large amounts of water and have very high shrink-swell characteristics. Forage produced on this site is palatable and nutritious, but may be deficient in protein and phosphorus during the winter months. Surface runoff is slow and erosion is negligible.

   b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

      Victoria clay
      Harlingen clay

   c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
   a. The climax vegetation of this site is grassland. This site is dominated by mid and tall grasses such as little bluestem, Indiangrass, Arizona cottontop, fourflower trichloris and plains bristlegrass. Also occurring but in smaller amounts are vine-mesquite, cane and silver bluestem, sideoats grama and Texas bristlegrass. Little bluestem decreases in amount and is partly replaced in the climax by pinhole and cane bluestem, and trichloris in the south and western edges of this site.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	95%	Forbs	5%
Little bluestem Indiangrass Fourflower trichloris	45	Snoutbean Maximillian sunflower Gayfeather Annual forbs	
Arizona cottontop Pinhole bluestem	15	Bushsunflower Yellow neptunia Western indigo Bundleflower Milkpea	5
Pink pappusgrass	5		
Plains bristlegrass	5		
Sideoats grama	15		
Vine-mesquite Nash windmillgrass Texas wintergrass Buffalograss	10		

b. As retrogression occurs, Nash windmillgrass, Texas wintergrass, cane and silver bluestem and pink pappusgrass are likely increasers. In a deteriorated condition any of these common invaders may be observed growing on the site: red threeawn, filly panicum, tumble windmillgrass, Texas grama, red lovegrass, whorled dropseed, western ragweed, and such woody species as mesquite, spiny hackberry, agarito and lote.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition ranges from 3800 pounds per acre in poor years to 5500 pounds per acre of air-dry vegetation in good years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used by dove and quail. As brush invades, deer utilize the site.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a.

Condition Class	Percent Climax Vegetation	Ac/AU/Yearlong
Excellent	76 - 100	8 - 11
Good	51 - 75	10 - 14
Fair	26 - 50	13 - 17
Poor	0 - 25	17+

b.

Introduced Species	Percent of the Area Established			
	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-0
Introduced grasses	7-10	9-13	12-15	16+

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. For Cattle

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Fourflower trichloris	Plains bristlegrass	Annual grasses
Little bluestem	Texas wintergrass	Woody invaders
Arizona cottontop	Pappusgrass	Filly panicum
Sideoats grama	Nash windmillgrass	Tumble windmillgrass
Indiangrass	Buffalograss	
Cane bluestem	Maximillian sunflower	
Vine-mesquite	Snoutbean	
	Bushsunflower	

b. For Deer

Primary	Secondary	Low Value
Annual forbs	Other woody plants	Baccharis
Maximillian sunflower	Spiny hackberry	Most grasses
Bushsunflower		Mesquite
Gayfeather		Agarito
Yellow neptunia		Lote sp
Texas wintergrass		

c. For Quail and dove

Primary	Secondary	Low value
Croton seed	Most grass seed	Most woody plants(mast)
Ragweed seed	Mature grasses and	
Sunflower seed	forbs (quail)	
Bristlegrass seed		
Most annual forb seed		
Tender grasses and		
forbs (quail)		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explaination of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.